

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06590 271154Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 6590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BBCP, BTRA, SA, US, OVIP

SUBJECT: SAUDI SPEAKER AT MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE'S OCTOBER CONFERENCE

REF: JIDDA 6517-C

1. AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO HISHAM NAZER, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND MENTIONED HIS REGRET THAT NAZER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND MEI'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE AS SCHEDULED. NAZER SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY FORTHCOMING POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE CABINET REQUIRED HIM TO STAY IN SAUDI ARABIA, BUT HE ASKED AMBASSADOR AKINS PERSONALLY TO CONVEY HIS REGRETS TO AMBASSADOR BROWN.

2. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HISHAM NAZER MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEND AS A SUBSTITUTE ONE OF THE CPO'S MOST SENIOR AND EXPERT OFFICIALS: DR. FAROUK AKHDAR. AKHDAR SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY, HAS A U.S. PHD., AND, WE ARE TOLD, DID WELL AS A SAUDI SPOKESMAN ON A RECENT TRIP ACROSS THE U.S.

3. NAZER UNDERSTANDS THAT MEI WOULD OF COURSE PREFER PRINCE SAUD OR SOMEONE IN HIS PARTY. IF MEI, HOWEVER, WOULD LIKE AKHDAR TO COME, NAZER SAID WE SHOULD LET HIM KNOW URGENTLY.
AKINS

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